

About This Standard

Mandated

Standard Identifier FIPS Pub 10-4, w/ CNs 1-12

Title of Standard

Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and Their Principal Administrative Divisions, April 1995 as modified by Change Notice 1, 1 Dec 1998 through Change Notice 12, 11 Jun 2007

Standards History

Introduced to Registry	Date Emerging	Date Mandated	Last Status Update	Last Status Review	Inactive/ Retired
2007-11-06	n/a	2007-11-06	2007-11-06	2007-11-06	n/a

Replaced [FIPS Pub 10-4:2002](#)

Standards Body [NIST](#)

[Broken Link?](#)

URL to Access or Acquire <http://www.itl.nist.gov/fipspubs>

Working Group

Primary Owner Application / Messaging TWG
Secondary Interest No Secondary Interest

Service Area GEOINT: Geospatial

KIPs No KIP Found

Standard Applicability

2007-11-08

FIPS PUB 10-4 provides a list of the basic geopolitical entities in the world, together with the principal administrative divisions that comprise each entity. For applications involving the interchange of geospatial information requiring the use of country codes, this standard is mandated. This data element and representation standard is made available for the interchange of information among Federal departments and independent agencies. It is intended for use in activities associated with the mission of the Department of State and national defense programs. It may also be used for Federal interchanges of information with the non-Federal sector including industry, State, local, and other Governments, and the public at large. This Standard is intended for applications involving the interchange of international data. Applications limited primarily to domestic data, i.e., concerning the United States and its outlying areas, should use FIPS PUB 5-2, Codes for the Identification of the States, the District of Columbia and the Outlying Areas of the United States, and Associated Areas. For applications involving interchange of international data that require the use of the country codes of the International Organization for Standardization, i.e., ISO 3166, FIPS PUB 104-1, American National Standard Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries, Dependencies, and Areas of Special Sovereignty for Information Interchange, is available. FIPS PUB 104-1 provides both two-and three-character alphabetic codes for each entity listed. Federal agencies that do not require FIPS PUB 104-1 for international data interchange,

and that are not involved in national defense programs or with the mission of the U.S. Department of State, may adopt either FIPS PUB 10-4 or FIPS PUB 104-1.

Standard Abstract

2007-11-08

This Standard provides a list of the basic geopolitical entities in the world, together with the principal divisions that comprise each entity. Each basic geopolitical entity that was listed in FIPS PUB 10-3, Countries, Dependencies, and Areas of Special Sovereignty, as updated, is included; it is represented by the same two-character alphabetic, country code. Each principal administrative division is identified by a four-character code consisting of the two-character country code followed by a two-character administrative division code. This Standard supersedes FIPS 10-3 in its entirety. The names of the political entities are derived from official meeting records of the Foreign Names Committee of the US Board on Geographic Names (US BGN).

Profiling Questions

GEOINT: Geospatial

- Does your interchange of geospatial data require the use of country codes?

Products Incorporating This Standard

None

Relevant Information

None

Implementation Guidance

None

Standard Selection Criteria

Net-Centric Interoperability

This standard supports net-centric interoperability by providing a common definition for country code references.

Technical Maturity

This standard is stable and mature. It has been published since 1995. There are frequent updates (possibly annual), as countries change name or formulation.

Public Availability

FIPS Pub 10-4 is available for free download from the following link at NIST FIPS site: <http://www.itl.nist.gov/fipspubs/fip10-4.htm>. The change notices are available through the NGA web site at: http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/fips_files.html.

Implementability

The standard is available and implementable. It is supported ubiquitously throughout the U.S. Implementations may also need to implement the ISO country code standard ISO 3166-1, and map code values between the two standards.

Authority

Maintenance authority for FIP 10 was transferred from the Department of State to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in 1997. NGA's goal is to update the standard with quarterly change notices deriving from results of quarterly US BGN Foreign Names Committee (FNC) meetings.

Standard Type

Non-Military

**Keywords for
Search**

CISS, CTISS